

## INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF  
24 Jan 00

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program – Bolivia

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program, facilities, and support agencies in Bolivia to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent FAO trainees and/or the FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. **FACTS:**

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length: 12 Months.

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: January through December.

(3) Program Description: One FAO conducts ICT in Bolivia each year. FAO attends either the Bolivian Army Advanced Course (*Escuela de Aplicación de Armas* or the Bolivian Army Command and Staff College (*Escuela de Comando y Estado Mayor*). Both schools are located in Cochabamba.

(a) FAO conducts regional travel before, during and after completion of the course. FAOs attending the Advanced Course should not expect to travel during the first two phases, from September to January.

(b) Language Instruction Availability: FAO is immersed in the language for the duration of the course. There is no embassy-sponsored language training for FAO or family members.

(4) Prerequisites:

CGSC: MAJ or CPT (P); branch immaterial; Spanish DLPT 2/2.

Advanced Course: CPT only; branch immaterial; Spanish DLPT 2/2.

b. POVs: FAO is authorized to ship one POV. Due to long shipment times (approximately 2 months), FAOs should ship early. Purchasing a used vehicle in country is **not** recommended. Due to the poor road conditions in Bolivia, strongly recommend FAO ship a 4WD vehicle, along with a roadside safety kit, small air compressor, shovel, axe, and hand-held winch (“come-along”).

c. Household Goods. FAOs are authorized full JFTR. An additional 2000 lb consumable goods shipment is authorized IAW the JFTR. Weight allowance includes

unaccompanied goods shipment of 600 lbs for the FAO, 350 lbs for every dependent over 12 years of age, and 175 lbs for every dependent under 12. Household goods take approximately 90 days for shipment from CONUS. Unaccompanied baggage should be shipped as soon as possible in order to be on hand when the FAO arrives. Incoming FAOs should coordinate with resident FAOs for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

d. Housing: Officer receives Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) of \$1575 per month and must arrange for privately leased housing. Before signing a lease, FAOs must ensure housing meets all Embassy requirements. Expect delays in arranging for adequate permanent housing. FAOs generally pass along to the incoming FAO the lease on a house already in use. This housing has been approved by the Embassy Regional Security Officer and meets all security requirements. The house (Casa 15) is a 4-bedroom, 5-bath, two-story home located in the gated community of *Escudañó*, in the *Cala Cala* sector of Cochabamba. Within the complex there are several employees of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); DEA provides two National Police guards and a roving patrol to augment the private security guards in the complex.

FAO property in the house includes a refrigerator, a water distiller, electric stove (Embassy requirement – no gas stoves permitted), six transformers (all current in Cochabamba is 220 volt), a freezer, and a washer and dryer. Rent is \$1300 per month; electric bills routinely run between \$150 and \$200 per month.

The house has been pre-approved by the embassy and the lease for the incoming FAO is normally prepared by the resident FAO to either renew or assume the existing lease. The contract usually runs for a two-year period.

e. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical: U.S Consulate General located in Cochabamba provides nursing support. Many qualified, English-speaking doctors are available in Cochabamba; a list of embassy-approved doctors and medical specialists is provided by the embassy at in-processing. All medical personnel accept TRI-CARE Latin America – incoming FAOs and their families will be enrolled as part of in-processing. All prescription drugs available.

(2) Dependent Schooling: There are three schools which teach in English and meet the Department of Defense Dependent Schools screening criteria. The first is called *Carachipampa*. It is a Christian-based program in grades 1-12, and space is limited. The second school is called the Cochabamba Cooperative School, a private, co-educational school for grades Pre-K through 12. The CCS has a history of over 40 years in the community and the majority of US Embassy dependent children attend this school. It is certified by the (US) Southern Accreditation of Colleges and Schools. The last school is the American International School of Bolivia. The educational program is that of a traditional U.S. college preparatory school. School starts mid-August and ends early June. FAOs should contact the Overseas Schools Representative for the U.S. Embassy, Mr. Paul Folmsby, prior to enrolling dependents in any school.

(3) PX/Commissary: The Embassy in La Paz has a small PX/Commissary. To be a member you must leave a \$150.00 deposit (\$300.00 for the family). Cochabamba has a sufficient supply of foodstuffs, including fresh fruits and vegetables, meats, poultry and dairy items, to support FAOs and their families. In addition, FAOs have access to the USMILGRP commissary flights and can coordinate purchases of canned and dry goods through the OPSCO at the DAO.

(4) APO: A full service APO is available at the Embassy. Normal postal regulations for size and weight apply. Letter mail is sent via courtesy through the DEA contracted courier (DHL). Since the DEA has a fully operational Resident Office in Cochabamba, the FAO's letter mail is sent there. All packages have to be sent and received through the DAO office and this is usually coordinated when the commissary goods are exchanged, about once a month. If a certain package is needed quickly the DAO will forward it through the DHL courier contracted by the DEA and charge the FAO budget for the expense.

f. Rating Chain:

Rater: Army Attaché (ARMA), LTC  
Senior Rater: Defense Attaché (DATT), COL

g. FAOs in Training/Programmed:

CPT Humberto Boppel-Ramirez      0001-0101

h. Address:

(1) Mail:  
Rank, Name  
USDAO La Paz, Bolivia  
Unit 3912  
APO AA 34032-0008

(2) Message: USDAO LA PAZ BL

i. Phone #: DAO 011-591-243-2253

**3. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

a. Bring Advanced Course, CAS3, and CGSC materials. ICT provides a good opportunity to complete them and they serve as valuable references while attending school.

b. FAOs should bring the complete array of military uniforms. Hand-carry greens and have extra pants and shirts, plus a sweater, extra ties and the black windbreaker. Classrooms at the school are not heated. The daily uniform is Class Bs Monday-

Thursday and BDUs on Fridays. Class As are required for frequent ceremonies. All business conducted at the embassy is in suit and tie – NO exceptions.

c. Regional Travel Priorities:

- (1) Priority one: Argentina, Chile, Brazil
- (2) Priority two: Other South America countries.
- (3) Priority three: Central America, Mexico

d. Bolivia is the only ICT site in Latin America where the FAO is not in the same city as the Embassy, which is located in La Paz. The US Consulate General in Cochabamba does provide some critical support to the FAO, but in general, the FAO in Cochabamba does not have the support facilities found in other sites. Expect delays in mail and commissary shipments as well as any logistical support such as coordinating moves into and out of the country. The greatest support network and facilities available to the FAO are with the DEA Resident Office in Cochabamba, which informally supports FAOs with direct phone lines to the embassy, copy machines, computers, faxes, and CMS direct phone lines to CONUS.

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